

REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT

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1. The position of Dr. Werner Lange, head of the Zentralamt für Forschung und Technik, has been strong because of the support of Minister Heinrich Rau, formerly of the State Planning Commission, and his deputy, State Secretary Paul Strassenberger. In addition to this protection afforded him by leaders of the DDR, Lange has enjoyed the confidence of the Russians. The head of ZFT is the only member of the staff who sees Soviet members of the SCC and UBIG, Berlin-Weissensee, frequently.
2. Within ZFT, the following staff members support Lange: Dr. Bardenheuer, head of Hauptabteilung Wissenschaftlich-Technische Organisation; (fru) Lur, personnel director; (fru) Gebler, chief of Abteilung Technischer Plan; Dr. Hans Wittbrodt, director of Hauptabteilung Forschung und Entwicklung. On a lower level, Dr. Horst Burckhardt reports to Gebler on the private affairs and political views of his colleagues; Gebler, in turn, gives the information to Lange.
3. The position, in the ZFT hierarchy, of Dr. Günther Panning is not clear. Panning in the past criticized, confidentially, the Lur and the Lange faction. His standing with the two groups was, therefore, not very high. In the past month, however, his position has inexplicably improved. In the past few weeks, Panning has been called to the Central Committee of the SED a conspicuous number of times; [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] Panning missed election as secretary of the SED Betriebsgruppe in ZFT recently by only one vote. In his place, (fru) Solo of Wittbrodt's office was named.
4. In the latter part of May 1952, there were rumors of imminent personnel changes in the State Planning Commission which would have immediate effect on ZFT. Erwin Kerber was reported to have been named to replace Strassenberger. This information was imparted at a meeting in late May of all ZFT personnel at which news about a new type of "complex, coordinated planning" was also announced. This planning involved the naming of four or five additional deputies to Rau. Each deputy was to supervise the work of a number of specialized ministries, in order to coordinate their work more closely.

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[illegible]

5. The Lange faction reacted against the replacement of Strassenberger by Kerber, and decided to intervene with the SED Central Committee in favor of their old chief. Lange threatened to resign and return to the Bergakademie Freiberg if the change went through. As of 21 May, no change had been made.

1. [redacted] Comment: USIG = Administration of Soviet Property in Germany 50X1-HUM
2. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] name of the chief of the Abteilung Technischer Plan as H. Gaebler. 50X1-HUM
3. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] Dr. Panning as chief of the Fachgebiet Chemie, Steine und Erden which is responsible to the Hauptabteilung Forschung und Entwicklung (HA FE) of ZAFF. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
4. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- [redacted] Erwin Kerber has been appointed head of ZAFF. A report confirms the information and lists Dr. Werner Lange as deputy to Kerber.

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